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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Refer to: I-15,499/9

SEP 23 1959

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Enclosed is a proposed U.S. position on the LIVE OAK study, "Berlin Contingency Planning, More Elaborate Measures".

You will note that the proposed position does not approve the study as a whole. Instead, it gives comments on each particular portion: military preparedness measures, counter-measures, maintaining air access to Berlin, use of military force to reopen autobahn access, and SACEUR's alert measures. From the U.S. point of view the principal military planning remaining to be accomplished is that of preparing contingency plans for maintaining air access and for restoring surface access. For these purposes it was not considered necessary to take a formal position approving the entire study.

The study points out that the use of any of the military measures should be a part of the overall political, economic and psychological assault against the Soviets. Insofar as the situation permits the full development of non-military measures the Department of Defense is in accord with this view. This underlines the importance of carrying forward in the Interdepartmental Coordinating Group and in the Tripartite Group in Washington not only the planning for military measures, which is the subject of this paper, but also full planning for non-military measures, which is already under way.

It is recommended that:

a. The Interdepartmental Coordinating Group, Berlin Contingency Planning, approve the proposed U.S. position (enclosed) and authorize its transmittal by the Joint Chiefs of staff to General Norstad.

b. The Department of State inform the Ambassadors of the United Kingdom and France of the action by United States on the LIVE OAK study and urge that their governments agree to preparation by General Norstad of the necessary military contingency plans (for maintaining air access and for restoring surface access).

ORDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
SEP 25 1959

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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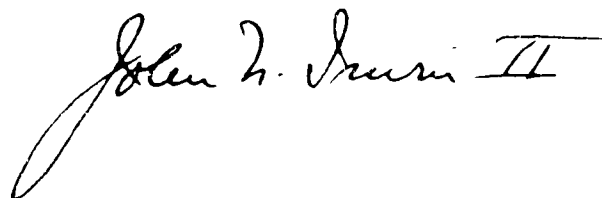
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c. You inform the President of the action taken in your next communication to him on Berlin Contingency Planning.

The representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Central Intelligence Agency concur in the above recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Enclosure
a/s

Honorable Robert Murphy
Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs

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COMMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES ON LIVE OAK STUDY
"BERLIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING, MORE ELABORATE MILITARY MEASURES"

The United States finds the LIVE OAK study, "Berlin Contingency Planning: More Elaborate Military Measures", a most useful report.

Specific comments and requests by the United States on the study are as follows:

Appendix A: The United States has noted these measures and will consider their selective application in event of need.

Appendix B: The United States agrees fully that any countermeasures, to be effective, must be more than punitive and must be conducted in a manner to demonstrate tripartite unity and to demonstrate that the three powers are also in a position to harass the Soviets. The United States also agrees that the application of certain countermeasures, particularly those related to psychological and unconventional warfare, would depend more heavily on political than on military conditions. The countermeasures in Appendix B will also be kept under study for possible use in event of need.

Appendix C: The United States considers the analysis of courses of action as valid and requests that military contingency plans be prepared by General Norstad for both courses of action. These plans should be furnished to the military authorities of the Three Powers for their review and held available for use in event of need. No dissemination of these plans to other nations should be made without further authority.

Appendix D: The United States considers that the *conclusion set forth on pg. 10* ~~analysis contained~~ in Appendix D furnishes a suitable basis for the preparation of military contingency plans for the use of military force to reopen autobahn access. The United States requests that military contingency plans be prepared on the basis of this analysis for review by the national military authorities of the Three Powers and be held available for use in event of need. There should be no dissemination of such plans to other nations without further authority.

Appendix E: The United States has noted the measures listed in Appendix E and will consider their application in event of need.

* *changed phoned by Col. Tyler*

Revised per letter from Mr. Knight of October 2, 1959

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